

# Two Main Types of Wedding Timelines:



Getting ready to plan your wedding? Here are some suggested timelines to help you out

These timelines serve as useful guidelines, as they tend to apply to most wedding days.

The most significant difference is the inclusion of a **"first look" session** in the first timeline. This lets the couple see each other before the ceremony and have a private photo session. In the second timeline, the couple doesn't have a first look, and they **see each other for the first time during the ceremony.**

Timing: The first timeline typically starts earlier in the day to accommodate the first look and additional photo sessions. The second timeline starts later because there's no need for the first look and additional photos before the ceremony.

The first timeline allocates more time for photography before the ceremony, including the first look and private photo session. In the second timeline, most of the photos are taken after the ceremony during the cocktail hour and before the reception.

# Wedding timeline with a first look

## Morning/Getting Ready



**9:00** AM: Bride and bridesmaids start getting hair and makeup done.

**10:30** AM: Groom and groomsmen begin getting ready.

**11:30** AM: Photographer arrives to capture bridal party preparations.

**12:30** PM: Bride gets into her wedding dress.

**1:00** PM: First look and private photo session with the couple.

**1:30** PM: Bridal party and family join for group photos.

**2:30** PM: Couple takes a break and freshens up.



## Ceremony

**4:00** PM: Guests start arriving at the ceremony venue.

**4:30** PM: Ceremony begins.

**5:00** PM: Ceremony concludes, cocktail hour starts.



## Reception

**6:00** PM: Reception doors open, dinner is served.

**7:30** PM: Toasts and speeches.

**8:00** PM: Dancing and entertainment.

**10:30** PM: Cake cutting and dessert bar.

**11:00** PM: Dance party continues.

**12:00** AM: Grand exit or send-off.



## 2) Wedding timeline without a first look



### Morning/Getting Ready

**9:00** AM: Bride and bridesmaids start getting hair and makeup done.

**10:30** AM: Groom and groomsmen begin getting ready.

**11:30** AM: Photographer arrives to capture bridal party preparations.

**12:30** PM: Bride gets into her wedding dress.

**1:30** PM: Bridal party and family gather for pre-ceremony photos.



### Ceremony

**3:00** PM: Guests start arriving at the ceremony venue.

**3:30** PM: Ceremony begins.

**4:00** PM: Ceremony concludes, cocktail hour starts.



### Reception

**6:30** PM: Toasts and speeches.

**7:00** PM: Dancing and entertainment.

**9:30** PM: Cake cutting and dessert bar.

**10:00** PM: Dance party continues.

**11:30** PM: Grand exit or send-off.



One advantage of incorporating a "First Look" into your wedding timeline is the opportunity for an intimate and emotional moment between the couple before the ceremony. It allows for genuine reactions and private expressions of love. Additionally, it can help ease pre-ceremony nerves and potentially save time on formal portraits after the ceremony. However, some may argue that it diminishes the suspense of seeing each other for the first time at the altar.



Without First Look: Opting for a wedding timeline without a "First Look" maintains the tradition of the couple seeing each other for the first time during the ceremony, which can be deeply meaningful and emotional. It preserves the surprise element and adheres to a more traditional approach. However, this choice can create a more time-constrained post-ceremony schedule, potentially causing delays in the reception or limiting time for photos. It may also heighten pre-ceremony jitters for some couples.



No matter which timeline you go for, it's all about what feels right for you.

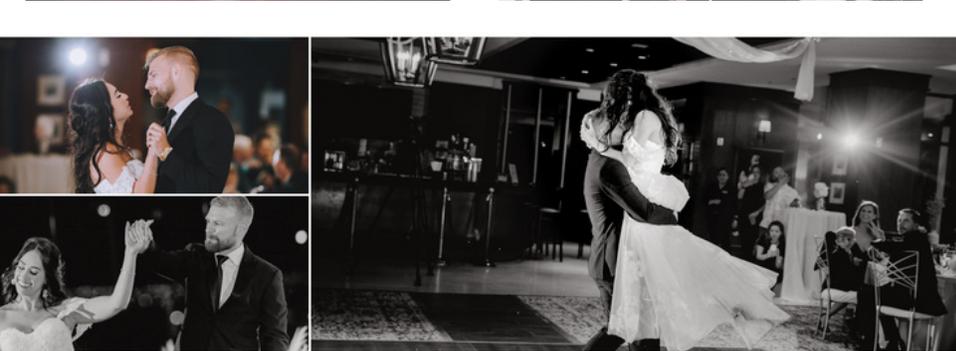
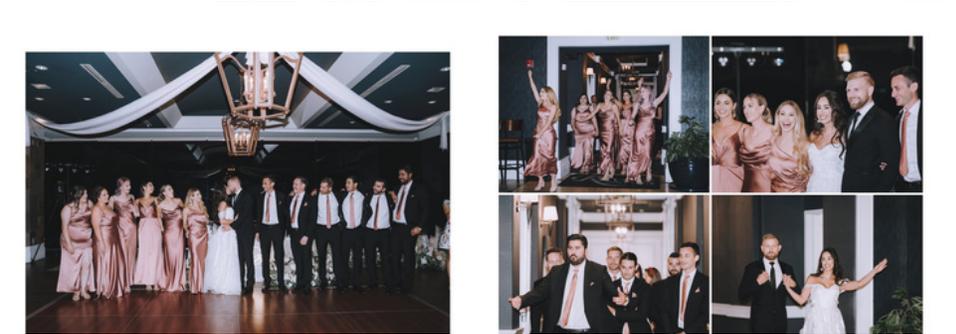
Whether you decide to have a "First Look" and share an intimate moment before the ceremony or keep it a surprise at the altar, it's your day, and it should reflect your love story and what makes you both happy.

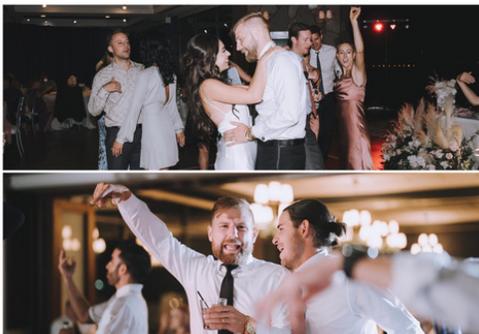
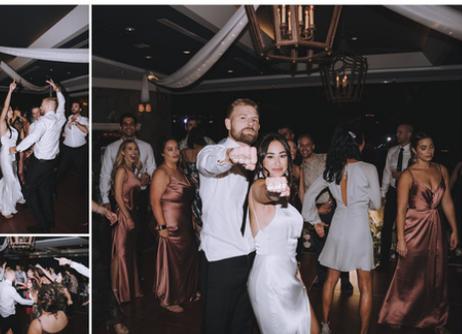
So, trust your gut, go with what feels most "you," and make your wedding day a reflection of your unique journey together.













*Have more questions?*

*Connect!*

*[info@gurtonphotography.com](mailto:info@gurtonphotography.com)*

*Warmly,  
Olga*

With over 250 weddings under our belt since 2014, we've perfected the art of crafting timeless memories. Our expertise has earned us accolades as one of the top wedding and engagement photographer/videographer teams in the DMV area.